

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 20054 071354Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IGA-02 ARA-10 IO-13 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 /120 W
-----079609 071358Z /45

P 071202Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9055
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20054

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SO, US
SUBJECT: SOMALI PLEA FOR U.S. AID

1. PRESIDENT OF ITALIAN SENATE FANFANI ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS HOME DEC. 6 TO DISCUSS AN "IMPORTANT MATTER". HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WOULD BE OTHER THAN ITALIAN POLITICS. TO MY SURPRISE, HE HAD WAITING FOR ME HUSSEIN KULMIE AND ABDERAHMAN BARRE, VICE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER RESPECTIVELY OF SOMALIA.

2. KULMIE AND BARRE, HAVING PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE UK, FRANCE AND THE FRG, HAD COME TO ROME ON THE SAME MISSION, TO SEEK MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THEY WANTED ME TO CONVEY TO MY GOVERNMENT A CLEAR SOS. THE SITUATION WAS DESPERATE. SOMALIA URGENTLY NEEDED WEAPONS AND FINANCIAL AID, WITHOUT WHICH IT WOULD BE OVERRUN BY ETHIOPIAN FORCES SUPPORTED BY RUSSIA AND CUBA. IN THEIR EUROPEAN QUEST THEY HAD FOUND SYMPATHY BUT NO WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT, UNLESS THE US ALSO PARTICIPATED. A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE US WAS IMPERATIVE, THEY EMPHASIZED, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS A PRECONDITION OF EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE, BUT BECAUSE ONLY THE US COULD SUPPLY THE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS REQUIRED TO COMBAT THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE ETHIOPIANS
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BY THE SOVIET UNION.

WITH SOME BITTERNESS, THE SOMALIS ASSERTED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE US TO ACT WOULD MEAN SOVIET CONTROL OF THE HORN AND OF ACCESS TO THE RED SEA. AS AN ACT OF REVENGE, THE USSR PLANNED TO SPLIT SOMALIA AND TAKE OVER THE PORT OF BERBERA. SUCH A DENOUEMENT WOULD BE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO US CREDIBILITY

IN AFRICA.

4. ACCORDING TO KULMIE AND BARRE, MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY
KASSIM IS NOW IN WASHINGTON TO PLEAD AGAIN THE SOMALI CASE.

5. I AGREED ONLY TO CONVEY THEIR VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770454-0393
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From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771283/aaaacsez.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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SAS ID: 328055
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI PLEA FOR U.S. AID
TAGS: MASS, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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